



## Minnesota Ag News – Farm Labor

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### Hired Workers Up 16 Percent in Lake Region; Wage Down 35 Cents from One Year Ago

**Lake Region:** There were 74,000 workers hired directly by farms in the Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) the week of July 10-16, 2011, according to the USDA, NASS, Minnesota Field Office. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.75 per hour during the July 2011 survey week, down 35 cents from July 2010. The number of hours worked averaged 36.7 for hired workers during the survey week, compared with 34.4 hours in July 2010. In Minnesota, part of the Lake Region, there were 3.8 days suitable for fieldwork during the week, compared to 5.2 days during the 2010 reference week. During the week, Minnesota experienced intermittent rain and thunderstorms throughout the state.

**United States:** There were 1,186,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2011, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 836,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 350,000 workers.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$10.90 per hour during the July 2011 reference week, up 11 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$10.24 per hour, up 15 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$10.28 per hour compared with \$10.15 a year earlier.

WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS, LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JULY 2011						
Workers on Farms Hired Workers <sup>3/</sup>  Hours Worked Hired Workers <sup>3/</sup>  Workers By Work Type Field Livestock Field & Livestock All Workers <sup>3/</sup>	Lake Region <sup>1/</sup>			United States <sup>2/</sup>		
	July 11-17 2010	January 9-15 2011	July 10-16 2011	July 11-17 2010	January 9-15 2011	July 10-16 2011
	1,000 Workers					
	64	45	74	885	602	836
	Hours Per Week					
	34.4	36.0	36.7	40.7	38.9	41.3
	Dollars Per Hour					
	11.09	11.76	10.33	10.09	10.23	10.24
	9.47	10.45	10.24	10.15	10.52	10.28
	10.45	10.90	10.30	10.11	10.35	10.25
11.10	11.85	10.75	10.79	11.29	10.90	

1/ Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

2/ Excludes Alaska.

3/ Excludes agricultural service workers.